

REMARKS

This Amendment is being submitted pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 1.114. Upon entry of this Amendment, claims 1-31 remain in the Application. Claims 1-12 have been withdrawn previously. Claims 13 and 14 have been amended by this action. Claims 24-31 have been added.

Claim 13 as currently presented is directed to an acoustically active watershield mountable on an automotive vehicle door in an interior cavity defined therein. The watershield has a first surface and an opposed second surface. The first surface is configured to be oriented to face an outwardly oriented panel of an automotive vehicle door. The first layer is composed of a hydrophobic air restrictive scrim. Support for this element is found variously in the claims and specification. The watershield also includes a second layer laminated to the second face of the first layer. The second layer has a first face that is in laminated contact with the first layer and an opposed second face. The second layer is composed of one of open celled foam, or a lofted fiber material. It is submitted that the references that have been cited to date fail to teach or suggest a configuration in which the first and second layers are laminated. Without being bound to any theory, it is believed that this lamination provides beneficial sound absorption characteristics as well as water repellency.

Claim 14 depends from claim 13 to specify that the second layer is formed of at least one of a lofted polymeric fiber pad, a natural fiber pad, or an open-celled polymeric foam pad. Support for this claim is found variously in the specification. It is submitted that the cited references fail to teach or suggest a configuration in which such a material is laminated to a hydrophobic air restrictive scrim.

Claims 24-31 have been newly presented by this action. Support for these claims is found in the specification and drawings. It is submitted that the cited references, taken alone or in combination fail to teach or suggest the invention set forth in either Tilton, Thomas, or any suitable combination thereof, as well as any of the references previously cited in this matter.

Date May 17, 2007

Reply to Office Action dated January 17, 2007

Entry of this Amendment pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 1.114 is respectfully requested. It is submitted that the Applicants' Amendment is sufficient to place the case in condition suitable for allowance. Notice of allowance is, therefore, respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Denise M. Glassmeyer", is written over the printed name.

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